



*Coqui eggs*



*Newly hatched froglet*



*Adult coqui frog*

## Produced by the **Coqui Frog Working Group**

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(CTAHR)

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**BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**

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# Coqui Frog Control for Homeowners



### **PLEASE REMEMBER!**

It is illegal in Hawaii to import, export, breed, or sell coqui frogs, or keep them as pets.

# Stop the spread!

If you have just a few coqui frogs in your area:

**INSPECT** for frogs regularly—look for eggs, juveniles, and adults, and listen at night for male frogs. Coqui often perch on twigs, in leaf whorls and folds, or between two leaves. They are often found on broad-leaved plants, but they will use any leaf that will support their weight and provide cover. Shortly after sunset, take a flashlight and scan over and between leaves, checking folded or curled leaves, leaf axils, and dead leaves hanging from the plant. Male frogs can usually be located by their sound. One or more silent females are often found near a calling male. Their eggs are often laid in leaf litter or in rolled or folded leaves near the ground. If your plants are infested, don't move them from your property, and be sure to carefully inspect any plants before you buy them.

**HAND-CAPTURE** frogs by grabbing them quickly. They are not poisonous and can be handled with bare hands. Or, collect them by using a short length of clear plastic tubing with a plastic bag taped over the upper end. Place the open end of the "tube tool" over the frog. The frog will climb up the tube and into the bag. (See instructions on how to make a "tube tool" at <http://everyfroghasastory.tripod.com>) Once captured in the bag, frogs can be killed humanely by placing them in hot soapy water or in the freezer.



**SPRAY** commercially available citric acid on infested plants to kill frog eggs, juveniles, and adults. Citric acid anhydrous is obtainable in 50 lb bags and is repackaged in 5 and 10 lb bags by some merchants. Citric acid is a common food additive and is considered safe for environmental use by the EPA. It should be mixed with water to



*This coqui-friendly habitat is dense, with lots of moist hiding places, and is hard to treat.*

make a 16% solution (Mix 1.3 lb citric acid, approximately 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cups, in 1 gal of water). The frogs are killed on direct contact with the spray. Try to spray in the early evening when frogs start to call. The best time is after a light drizzle when the ground is moist but not wet, because frogs hide during extended dry periods and during heavy rain. Be sure to spray infested plants thoroughly. Directly spray any frogs jumping from the plant. Citric acid may damage some sensitive plants, causing leaf burn or yellowing. To avoid damage to delicate plants or flowers, rinse the treated plants with fresh water about an hour after spraying.

**SHOWER** landscape plants with hot water (113°F) to flush frogs from infested plants, then hand-collect the frogs. Potted plants can be placed in a sink or tub and showered with 113°F water for 3 minutes, followed by 1 minute of cold water to cool off the plant. This treatment will kill any frogs or eggs in the plant. Be sure to measure the water temperature, because cooler water is not effective and water that is too hot may damage the plant. 113°F should feel hot to the touch, but not scalding. If you have your hot water heater set to "warm," your hot tap should run at about 120°F.

**ELIMINATE** frog-friendly habitats in your yard. Coqui spend the day in moist underbrush or leaf litter. At night, they climb into understory vegetation, perching in moist, protected leaf shelters. By removing dead leaves from plants, pruning and thinning shrubs, and raking up understory debris, you can limit frog habitats. Dispose of your green



*This coqui-unfriendly habitat is open, airy, and accessible to control measures.*

waste—don't leave it piled in your yard. In dry weather, frogs can be attracted to standing or dripping water, so be sure to fix any leaky faucets and empty any containers that catch rainwater.

If coqui are well established in your area:

**REPLACE** thick understory vegetation with thinner vegetation.

**SPRAY** all landscape and potted plants with citric acid or hot water.

**MOW** a buffer zone around your house to keep frogs at a distance.

**Please report new infestations to:**

**BIG ISLAND**

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: 961-4482 ext. 26  
robert.t.sugihara@usda.gov

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: 974-4140

Big Island Invasive Species Committee: 961-3299

**MAUI**

Maui Invasive Species Committee: 573-6472

miscpr@hawaii.edu

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: 873-3555

**O'AHU:**

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: 973-9538

Oahu Invasive Species Committee: 586-7378

**KAUA'I**

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: 274-3069

[www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui)